



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT NEWS RELEASE**
High Plains District Office

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Contacts: Lesley A. Collins
307-261-7603

**Wright Area North Porcupine Record of Decision
Available from Wyoming High Plains District Office**

The Record of Decision (ROD) for the North Porcupine Coal Lease Application, part of the Wright Area Coal Lease Applications Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), is now available for review from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Wyoming High Plains District.

On Sept. 29, 2006, BTU Western Resources, Inc. (BTU) applied for federal coal reserves in three maintenance tracts encompassing approximately 5,116.65 acres and 598 million tons of coal as estimated by the applicant. The tracts are adjacent to the North Antelope Rochelle Mine operated by Powder River Coal, LLC. On Oct. 12, 2007, BTU filed a request with the BLM to modify its application and increase the lease area and coal volume to approximately 8,981.74 acres and 1,179.1 million tons of coal as estimated by the applicant. The BLM determined that the modified application would be processed as two separate maintenance tracts which are referred to as the North Porcupine tract and the South Porcupine tract.

Including the North Porcupine tract, the Wright Area Coal EIS analyzed the proposed leasing of six federal coal tracts located in the Wyoming portion of the Powder River Basin. The EIS disclosed to the public the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts of issuing a federal coal lease in the Wright area. A separate record of decision will be issued for each tract that was analyzed in the Wright Area Coal EIS.

The BLM has approved Alternative 2, which was the preferred alternative for the North Porcupine tract in the Wright Area Coal Final EIS. Under Alternative 2, the North Porcupine tract, as modified by BLM, will be offered for lease at a competitive sealed bid sale. Under the selected configuration, the tract includes 6,364 acres, more or less, and the BLM estimates that the tract contains approximately 721,154,828 tons of mineable federal coal resources in Campbell County, Wyoming. A competitive coal lease sale will be announced in the Federal Register at a later date.

This decision is subject to appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) as provided in 43 CFR 4 within 30 days from the date of publication of the notice of availability in the Federal Register. The ROD contains instructions for filing an appeal with the IBLA.

Copies of the ROD are available for public inspection online at: <http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/hpd/Wright-Coal.html> or at the following BLM offices:

Bureau of Land Management
Wyoming State Office
5353 Yellowstone Road
Cheyenne, WY 82009

Bureau of Land Management
Wyoming High Plains District Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, WY 82604

For more information, contact Sarah Bucklin or Mike Karbs at (307) 261-7600.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. In Fiscal Year 2015, the BLM generated \$4.1 billion in receipts from activities occurring on public lands.

--BLM--

High Plains District Office 2987 Prospector Dr. Casper, WY 82604

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